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The Mohonk Arbitration Conference.

The Fifteenth Annual Conference on International Arbitration held at Lake Mohonk, New York, May 19-21, was a most impressive and inspiring meeting. Mr. Smiley has the delightful habit of telling the guests at the close of each conference that it is the best conference they have ever held. This has always been substantially true, as the meetings have grown in numbers and power from year to year. But this year the statement was so evidently in accord with the fact that the pleasantry of the generous host almost lost its humor.

More than the usual number of eminent men from this and from other countries were present. Among them were ex-Ambassador Andrew D. White, Hon. William I. Buchanan, our greatest active diplomat, Hon. Richard Bartholdt, president of the Interparliamentary Group in Congress, Dr. James Brown Scott, Solicitor of the State Department, Governor Ansel of South Carolina, Chief Justice Baldwin of Connecticut, Chief Justice Moore of Michigan, ex-Chief Justices Stinson and Douglas of Rhode Island, Presidents Butler of Columbia, Warfield of Lafayette, Slocum of Colorado Springs, Thwing of Western Reserve, Brooks of Baylor University, Texas, Hobbs of Guilford, Faunce of Brown, Professor Mitchell of Richmond, Va., Dr. Nathan C. Schaeffer, State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Pennsylvania, Dean Kirchwey of the Columbia Law School, Dean Rogers of Cincinnati, Joseph Shippen of the Seattle Bar, J. H. Ralston of the Washington Bar and Cephas Brainerd of the New York Bar. Of editors we saw Hamilton Holt of the *Independent*, Dr. Abbott and W. B. Howland of the *Outlook*, Mr. Wheeler of *Current Literature*, Dr. R. M. Jones of the *American Friend*, and Mr. Batcheler of the *Christian Register*. There were representatives of more than fifty Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade extending from Jacksonville, Fla., to Seattle, Wash. The clergymen, as usual, had a large representation, prominent among whom were Dr. Jefferson of New York and Dr. Moxom of Springfield, Mass. Among the well-known peace workers were Robert Treat Paine, Benjamin F. Trueblood, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin D. Mead, Rev. Charles E. Beals, Rev. James L. Tryon, Mrs. Fannie Fern Andrews, Miss Anna B. Eckstein, Joshua L. Baily of Philadelphia, W. A. Mahony of Columbus, Prof. Samuel T. Dutton of Columbia University, Sarah W. Collins of New York, Mary and Helen Seabury of New Bedford, Robert C. Root of Los Angeles, George Fulk of the Intercollegiate Peace Association and Mr. Nasmyth, president of the Association of Cosmopolitan Clubs. A number of distinguished foreigners added exceptional interest. Among them were the British Ambassador Bryce, the Chinese Minister Wu Ting Fang, the Bolivian Minister Calderon, Joseph Allen Baker, member of the

House of Commons, Canon Henson of Westminster, Dr. Halvdan Koht of the Nobel Institute, Christiania, and the Japanese Consul-General in New York.

It was a great company, such as one rarely sees gathered in the interests of any movement. Its spirit was lofty and earnest, its speech strong, direct and courageous. From the magnificent opening address of the President, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, to the very last utterance, there was hardly a single speech that could be called poor and unworthy of the occasion. Some of these speeches we hope to give our readers the privilege of reading in an early number of this journal. Almost without exception they showed a remarkable grasp of the international situation as it now exists, and a deep and strong conviction that it is the imperative duty of the governments of the world to make an earnest and united effort to find some permanent security against the recurrence of war and some method by which the peoples of the different nations may be relieved of the enormous and ever growing burdens of militarism now resting upon them.

The whole Conference was an impressive revelation of the strength which the movement for arbitration and world peace has attained, and of the certainty with which it is drawing and is bound more and more to draw to itself all the important and influential elements of human society. Sitting session after session in the midst of the remarkable gathering there, and listening to the continuous flow of lofty speech and high ideas, one could not help feeling in advance something of the thrill of the final victory of the cause for which Mohonk stands over the inhuman and cruel system of strife and bloodshed which has left its dark and shameful traces on all the pages of history.

It is rare that a platform so fully reveals the spirit of a gathering, and so clearly and succinctly says what ought to have been said, as that which was adopted on the last day of the Conference. The Business Committee which presented this platform and had general direction of the exercises of the Conference struck us as being possibly the strongest that Mr. Smiley had ever gathered around him. The chairman of the committee was Dean Kirchwey, and no chairman ever performed his duties with greater ability, practical wisdom and fidelity. The platform is as follows and will speak for itself:

THE PLATFORM.

The Fifteenth Annual Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration, meeting on the tenth anniversary of the opening of the first Hague Conference, reviews with profound satisfaction the signal advance of the cause of international justice during the decade, a progress unexampled in any previous period in history. The memorable achievements of this period are at once an inspiration and an imperative call to renewed effort.

We urge upon our government, which has been so

conspicuously and so honorably identified with the progressive policies of The Hague, prompt action toward perfecting the important measures there inaugurated and the complete development of the system of arbitration. We especially urge its early initiative in the establishment of the International Court of Arbitral Justice.

We further urge the negotiation of a general treaty of arbitration between all nations, and look forward with increasing hope to the day when treaties of arbitration shall provide for the reference to The Hague of all international differences not settled by regular diplomatic negotiation.

The clear logic of the Hague conventions prescribes the limitation and gradual reduction of the machinery of war by the nations parties to those conventions corresponding to the development of the instrumentalities of law and justice for the settlement of international differences. The great armaments of the nations, whose intolerable burdens prompted the call to the first Hague Conference, have during the decade increased so portentously as to have now become, as recently declared by the British Foreign Secretary, "a satire upon civilization." They fill the world with apprehension and alarm; they create an atmosphere unfavorable to the system of arbitration; and their drain upon the resources of the peoples has become so exhausting as to menace all national treasuries and disastrously check the social reforms and advances which the interests of humanity demand. It is the opinion of this Conference that the time has arrived for carrying into effect the strongly expressed desire of the two Peace Conferences at The Hague that the governments "examine the possibility of an agreement as to the limitation of armed forces by land and sea and of war budgets," and address themselves to the serious study of this pressing question. Accordingly we ask our government to consider whether the peculiar position which it occupies among the nations does not afford it a special opportunity to lead the way toward making these weighty declarations a basis of public and concerted action.

Editorial Notes.

New Branch Societies.

We place on our list this month four new Branches of the American Peace Society. The first of these to complete its organization was the Cleveland Peace Society. Its officers are, President Charles F. Thwing, Western Reserve University, President; Mrs. H. E. Hollingshead, 2224 East Ninety-Fifth Street, Secretary; Mrs. A. R. Singletary, 3922 Prospect Street, Treasurer; Mrs. Lucia Webster, 2188 East Seventy-Ninth Street, First Vice-President; and an Executive Board, consisting of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, First Vice-President and four others. The Society begins with a membership of over fifty representative men and women of Cleveland.

On the 18th of May a Branch was organized at Seattle, Wash., under the title, "The Peacemakers of Washington," with more than fifty charter members. The officers are, Charles F. Whaley, 110 Olympic Place,

President; C. W. Scarff, Secretary and Treasurer; Rev. Sidney Strong, First Vice-President; and an Executive Committee, consisting of the officers and three others. The meeting at which the organization was effected was held in the auditorium of the Y. M. C. A., and was well attended. Several excellent addresses were made. The Society is making plans for a convention during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.

On Monday evening, the 24th of May, at a meeting in Hartford addressed by Secretary Trueblood, the Connecticut State Peace Society, which has been doing good work for two years as an Auxiliary, was changed to a Branch. The officers are, Arthur Derrin Call, President; Rev. Rodney W. Roundy, 249 Wethersfield Avenue, Secretary; J. Gilbert Calhoun, Treasurer; Charles E. Thompson, First Vice-President; and an Executive Committee, consisting of the officers and five others.

The Buffalo Peace Society, organized as a Branch of the American Peace Society on Thursday evening, May 27, promises to be from the very start one of the largest and most significant of the local peace organizations in the country. A great deal of preliminary work had been done by Mr. and Mrs. Frank F. Williams and others before the call for the meeting for organization was issued. Last autumn they organized a number of meetings in the city which were addressed by Mrs. Mead and others. The call for the meeting on the evening of May 27 was signed by over eight hundred representative men and women of Buffalo. Between four and five hundred persons attended the meeting, which was held in the hall of the Twentieth Century Club. Justice Haight, of the Court of Appeals of the State, presided. A large number of leading men of the city served as vice-presidents of the meeting and were on the platform, among them the mayor. Addresses were made by Justice Haight, the chairman, by J. N. Larned, the most eminent man of letters in Buffalo, and by Secretary Trueblood, who had been invited to give the main address of the evening. Hon. William I. Buchanan was to have spoken, but he was unexpectedly called away to go on a mission to Mexico. A more intelligent and responsive audience than that present is rarely seen. At the close of the addresses the Society was organized by the selection of J. N. Larned as president and Frank F. Williams, Esq., as secretary, and the appointment of a committee to draft a constitution. Slips for signature had been handed to all present, and a large number were signed and handed in. By the time the organization is completed it is confidently expected that several hundred members will have been enrolled. We congratulate the organizers of this meeting and of the Society, and the citizens and